

# **CHEM DEMIL UPDATE**

Jan. 19 – Feb. 23, 2007

## **FOR THE UTAH CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CHEMICAL DISPOSAL**

### **TOOELE CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (TOCDF)**

#### **FACILITY COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL TRIAL BURNS**

Trials burns for the TOCDF Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) and Liquid Incinerator (LIC) were completed successfully between Jan. 8 and 25. The trials burns are to demonstrate safe processing of mustard agent in both furnaces while establishing a maximum feed rate. Immediately following trial burn completion, the RCRA permit requires that the feed rate to both furnaces be reduced to 50 percent of what was demonstrated. When preliminary data from the trial burns are submitted to the state, the rate can be increased to 75 percent. When the final report and Notice of Compliance are submitted to state regulators, the rate will be increased back to 100 percent.

On Feb. 3, TOCDF workers processed 12 ton containers, a record amount to date in a one-day period. During that same week, workers processed a total of 54 containers, also setting a new one week record. Officials are optimistic that a combination of successful ton container sampling in Area 10 plus continuous processing at TOCDF will result in helping achieve the goal of reaching the 45 percent treaty milestone of disposal of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile by the end of 2007.

#### **STATUS OF AGENT DESTRUCTION**

As of Feb. 18, 7,976 tons of agent (GB, VX and HD – mustard) have been destroyed at TOCDF, representing over 58 percent of agent tonnage and over 89 percent of the number of munitions in the DCD total stockpile.

#### **TOCDF FEATURED ON HISTORY CHANNEL**

On the evening of Feb. 21, TOCDF officials and the plant itself were featured in a Modern Marvels segment on the History Channel. The program was about *Weapons of Mass Destruction*, with chemical weapons and their safe disposal as a small portion. The program synopsis from the History Channel is: Weapon of mass destruction—from the unimaginable power of nuclear bombs to microscopic anthrax spores—we reveal who possesses these nightmare weapons and explore the danger posed by terrorists with deadly technologies. Using the latest computer technology we see an on-screen representation of the radioactive plume that would result from a mock dirty bomb attack in Seattle. We will learn how bio-agents are discovered and understand the technology currently used to identify and prevent suicide bombings. Weapons of mass destruction have made the world a dangerous place but we will find out how technology can assist us as we strive for lasting solutions.

## **DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT (DCD)**

### **NEW CIVILIAN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

On Jan. 22, the U.S. Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) announced the appointment of Daniel M. Hancock as the new Civilian Executive Assistant (CEA) at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD).

After serving five years as an enlisted soldier and non-commissioned officer in Korea, Germany, and Operation Desert Storm/Calm, Mr. Hancock earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Montana in 1994 as a Distinguished Military Graduate.

While on active duty, Mr. Hancock performed many assignments, including platoon leader in the 68<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company in Mannheim, Germany, and Battalion Personnel Officer for the 28<sup>th</sup> Transportation Battalion. Hancock completed a Master of Education degree from National-Louis University while serving as the Operations Officer for the 293rd Base Support Battalion in Mannheim.

He continued to take on new challenges as his career progressed and in 2003, he was selected as Chief of Staff of the Pueblo Chemical Depot, Pueblo, Colo., and later served as the CEA. Although he left active duty in 1998, Mr. Hancock continues his service in the U.S. Army Reserve and has commanded at the detachment and company level.

### **LEAKING MUSTARD AGENT DETECTED IN STORAGE IGLOO**

A trace amount of mustard agent (less than 1ml) leaking from the plug of a bulk container was discovered on Feb. 8 during routine operations in a storage igloo. Depot workers in protective clothing tightened the plug and decontaminated the agent-filled munition. The earth covered storage structure was filtered and no vapor escaped to the environment. Tooele county officials were notified and there was no danger to surrounding communities. On Feb. 16, the ton container was transported to the TOCDF where it was processed normally on the next day.

## **CHEMICAL AGENT MUNITIONS DISPOSAL SYSTEM (CAMDS)**

### **CLOSURE ACTIVITIES BEGIN AT DEPOT'S FORMER RESEARCH FACILITY**

As previously announced, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) will conduct, with CAMDS workforce assistance, the closure of CAMDS. TVA assumed access control on Feb. 7 and continues to review documents, train personnel and perform CAMDS site preparation for a planned Operational Readiness Review (ORR) to be conducted by CMA and DCD personnel in the near future. The ORR is required prior to TVA starting closure operations at the site.

Closure activities began at CAMDS in August 2006. Since the 1970's, the CAMDS facility served as the primary test and development facility for the nation's chemical agent destruction program. Removal of facility equipment will be completed by FY 2009 with complete demolition of CAMDS facilities scheduled for second quarter FY 2009.

## **CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY (CMA)**

### **CMA DESTROYS MORE THAN 40 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S CHEMICAL AGENTS**

On Jan. 29, the U.S. Army CMA announced it had safely destroyed 40 percent of the nation's chemical blister and nerve agents. The Chemical Weapons Convention, which went into effect in 1997, currently requires that the United States destroy 45 percent of its chemical agent weapons—measured by agent weight—by December 2007.

"This puts us in a good position to make the 45 percent destruction milestone on or ahead of schedule," said Dale A. Ormond, acting director of CMA. He added, "We are currently destroying the agent stockpiles in Indiana, Oregon, Arkansas, Alabama and Utah."

The 40 percent destruction level was achieved through the combined efforts of CMA's disposal sites currently in operation, former disposal sites at Johnston Atoll in the South Pacific and in Maryland, and CMA's Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project.

Ormond noted that, "Johnston Atoll and our former facility in Maryland successfully completed their disposal operations in 2000 and 2006, respectively. Our work forces at the remaining sites are dedicated to the safe and efficient disposal of their stockpiles."

Chemical agents destroyed to date by CMA include GB (Sarin) and VX nerve agents and mustard blister agent. Chemical munitions destroyed include bombs, projectiles, mortars, land mines, rockets, spray tanks and bulk containers.

## **PROGRAM SITE STATUS**

- **Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ABCDF) – Md.**  
An end of mission ceremony titled, *A Safer Maryland Today: Closing ABCDF Open House* is scheduled at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Edgewood on Mar. 12, featuring CMA leadership. The Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to complete demolition of the remainder of the pre-9/11 structures. Maryland state regulators are expected this summer to give RCRA closure certification. Contract closeout is expected also late this summer. All HD mustard bulk containers (1,817) have been drained and neutralized.
- **Anniston Chemical Disposal Facility (ANCDF) – Ala.**  
VX processing continues. As of Feb. 18, a total of 596 tons of agent has been destroyed, more than 26 percent of the local stockpile. The ANCDF will destroy GB, VX and HD munitions including rockets, projectiles, land mines, mortars and bulk containers.
- **Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) – Ky.**  
On Jan. 10, DoD officials provided Nunn-McCurdy program certification to Congress and directed baseline cost and schedule estimates for the ACWA projects in Kentucky and Colorado be updated to more realistic values. Total cost for both programs is now estimated to be ~\$8 billion with Colorado operations complete in 2020 and Kentucky in 2023. BGCAPP infrastructure work continues on an access road, perimeter fencing and underground utility duct banks. In 2008, plant design will be finalized and construction of main destruction facility will begin. The plant will destroy a stockpile of chemical weapons containing 523 tons of mustard and nerve agents.
- **Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) – Ind.**  
The Army is now considering other options for treatment of VX hydrolysate. On Jan. 5, the DuPont treatment facility in New Jersey announced its decision not to treat hydrolysate proposed to be shipped from NECDF. The hydrolysate (to date approximately 500,000 gallons) continues to be stored in inter-modal containers until later treatment. As of Feb. 18, 533 tons of agent has been neutralized, representing over 42 percent of the local stockpile. NECDF is neutralizing VX agent stored in bulk containers. For Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) treaty purposes, the amount of agent destroyed at Newport cannot be counted as agent destruction until the VX hydrolysate receives the second stage of the treatment process yet to be determined.

- **Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) – Ark.**  
M55 GB rocket processing continues. As of Feb. 11, more than 79,000 M55 GB rockets have been safely disposed, 427 tons of GB agent, representing over 11 percent of the local agent stockpile. The PBCDF will destroy GB, VX and HD munitions including rockets, mines and ton containers (second largest in the national stockpile).
- **Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) – Colo.**  
PCAPP design is essentially complete. Stage-one construction continues with perimeter fencing and the Depot Access Road completed. The Access Control Point is scheduled for a Spring 2007 completion. Stage-two construction of ancillary buildings is expected to begin in FY07. No decision has been made on where to treat hydrolysate from the neutralization process, either on or off-site with a decision expected by summer 2007. The plant will destroy a stockpile of mustard projectiles and mortars containing approximately 2,600 tons of agent.
- **Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) – Ore.**  
Workers began the final GB (sarin) munition campaign on Jan. 25 when they moved 155mm diameter GB artillery projectiles to the UMCDF. The 155mm GB projectiles are the last type of sarin-filled munitions stored at the depot. Other types of chemical weapons are slated for disposal after this campaign is completed. The disposal facility previously processed more than 91,000 M55 GB rockets, 2,445 GB bombs and 14,246 8-inch GB projectiles stored at Umatilla. The entire GB disposal campaign should be complete by mid-2007 if there are no significant delays. As of Feb. 18, 875 tons of GB agent has been destroyed, representing over 23 percent of the local agent tonnage and half of the munition stockpile.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS, HEARINGS AND EVENTS**

- **Feb. 28, 6:00 p.m.** – TOCDF Resource Conservation Recovery Act class 3 modification request public meeting. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **Mar. 8, 1:00 p.m.** – Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Control Board monthly meeting. The meeting will be held in Room 101 at the Department of Environmental Quality building, 162 N. 1950 W. in Salt Lake City.
- **Mar. 13, 5:30 p.m.** – DCD Restoration and Advisory Board meeting to discuss environmental clean-up activities associated with the depot. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main in Tooele.
- **Mar. 14, 12:00 p.m.** – Tooele County Chamber of Commerce luncheon will be held at the La Frontera Restaurant at 494 S. Main in Tooele. Featured speaker will be DCD Commander Col. Frederick Pellissier.
- **Mar. 15, 6:30 p.m.** – Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Community Joint Information Center at 27 S. Main in Tooele.